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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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R 271558Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 6152

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, NL
SUBJ: POLL FAVORS LABOR AND LIBERAL PARTIES

1. RECENTLY PUBLISHED POLL OF DUTCH VOTERS INDICATES THAT THE POLARIZATION OF POLITICAL TRENDS IN THE NETHERLANDS DEMONSTRATED IN THE 1972 GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN THE SPRING 1974 PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS, HAS RESUMED. ACCORDING TO THE POLL TAKEN BY A RESPECTED MARKET-RESEARCH FIRM FOR AN INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING GROUP, STRONG GAINS WOULD BE REGISTERED BY THE LEFT AND RIGHT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CONFESSIONAL PARTIES IN THE CENTER IF AN ELECTION WERE HELD NOW.

2. THE PVDA (LABOR) PARTY, THE LARGEST PARTY IN THE SECOND CHAMBER AT PRESENT WITH 43 SEATS, WOULD INCREASE ITS REPRESENTATION TO 56, WHILE ITS PPR (RADICAL) ALLIES WOULD GO FROM 7 SEATS TO 12. EVEN WITH THE EXPECTED DEMISE OF THE OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" PARTY (D'66) NOW IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, THE PROGRESSIVES WOULD GAIN A TOTAL OF TWELVE SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT, AND THUS WOULD BE ONLY EIGHT SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT MAJORITY. THE FAR-LEFT PARTIES (THE COMMUNISTS AND PACIFIST SOCIALISTS) COULD BE EXPECTED TO HOLD AT ROUGHLY THE SAME PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTE THEY POLLED IN 1972.

3. ON THE RIGHT, THE VVD (LIBERALS) WOULD CONTINUE THEIR
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CLIMB ACCORDING TO THE POLL, AND WOULD REPLACE THE CATHOLICS AS THE SECOND LARGEST PARTY IN THE CHAMBER.

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THE VVD WOULD HAVE 29 SEATS AGAINST THEIR CURRENT TOTAL OF 22.

4. GAINS BY LABOR, THE RADICALS AND THE LIBERALS WOULD MAINLY COME, AS THEY DID IN 1972, FROM THE CONFESSIONAL CENTER. THE KVP (CATHOLICS) WOULD BE THE BIG LOSERS, DROPPING NINE SEATS, WHILE THE ARP (ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES) WOULD LOSE FOUR SEATS AND THE CHU (CHRISTIAN HITORICALS) MIGHT PICK UP ONE OR TWO.
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